(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) The Government bas already announced a comprehensive package of measures for revitalisation Of the jute industry. The Government has been studying the problems of jute industry on a continuing basis and taking necessary corrective steps from time to time to improve its working.

Pension cases of freedom fighters from Tamil Nadu

*250. SHRl M. VINCENT; Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

Ca) what is the number of pension cases of freedom fighters from Tamil Nadu pending with his Ministry category-wise;

(b) what is the number of such cases Wnich have been pending for more than three years and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken for their immediate disposal?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRl BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) Only 2 cases which are more than three years old are pending finalisation for want of State Government's verification report| clarification. The State Government are being reminded periodically to expedite their reports.

Credit restrictions on certain commodities

*251. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY;

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a (fact that the Reserve Bank has directed the commercial banks not to extend credit against certain commodities;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether there has been a steep rise in the prices of such commodities since March, 1987 as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) tQ (c) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has not asked scheduled commercial banks to stop granting credit against the stock of any commodity. On a review of recent price-output developments, certin provisions of selective credit conti ol in respect of a few sensitive commodities have been modified with a view to ensuring that bank credit is not utilised for speculative purposes. While advances agains: cotton-seeds, cotton-seed oil, paddy/ rice, cotton and kapas have been brought back under the purview of controls, the minimum margins on bank advances against stocks of oil seeds and vegetable oils (including vanaspati), paddy/rice, pulses and other foodgrains (excluding wheat) have been raised. The level of credit ceiling in respect of bank advances against oilseeds and vegetable oils (including vanaspati) have been reduced from 100 per cent fo 85 per cent of the peak level of credit maintained hy a Party during 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85. The level of credit ceiling for bank advances against paddy rice, cotton and kapas has also been fixed at 100 per cent of peak level of credit maintained by a pany during the same years. In view of the rise in prices of turmeric and other condiments, banks have also been asked to exercise greater caution while providing credit against these commodities so as to ensure that banks' funds are not utilised for inventory building with speculative intentions. Banks have been advised to undertake a case-by-case review of advances granted against such commodities and where appropriate. to step up the existing margins suitably.

The severe drought in the country has put pressure on prices of Some important agricultural commodities during the current financial year. The credit measurestaken by the Reserve Bank of India are

basically intended to curb any speculative hoarding of stocks in these circumstances and thereby to contain rise in prices.

Rank funds locked up in sick units

*252. DR. R. K. PODDAR;

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds of nationalised banks locked up in sick units rose by more than 136 per cent since 1980;

(b) if so. what are the reasons for such a steep rise and 'he total amount locked up in these industries; and

(c) what remedial measures have been taken by Government to recover the huge amount thus involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JA-NARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that ihe amount outstanding of 20 Nationalised Hanks in sick industrial units was Rs. 11 54.99 cores as at the end of December, 1980 and Rs. 2803.08 crores (provisional) as at the end of December. 1986.

The Reserve Bank of lndia has also re-ported that several factors contribute to industrial sickness, these include improper project planning and implementation, obsolete machinery, delay in modernisation of units, managerial incompetence, mismanagement, power shortages, market constraints, labour problems, etc.

Guidelines have been issued by the RBI to banks impressing upon them the need f°r monitoring the borrowal accounts and to draw up rehabilitation packages in respect of sick industrial units which are found to be potentially viable. Phased repayment of Bank's dues are contemplated in the packages which may con-Jain reliefs/concessions like reduced rates of interest, funding of irregularities waiving of penal interest, etc. As regards nonviable units, banks resort to suitable action for the recovery of their dues which could include, inter-alia, sale of goods hypothecated to the bank and enforcing other security available to the bank against the borrower or the guarantors, if any.

Import of aircraft and helicopters

253. SHRl BHAGATRAM MANHAR;

SHRl BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of aircraft and helicopters is highly re-slricted and if so, what are the broad rules and regulations under which the aircraft 'helicopters can be imported;

(b) which are the Government agencies/ private companies (individuals who have been allowed to import civil aircraft'heli-copters during the last three years and the circumstances under which each import was a flowed and the details of the air-craft/helicopters involved; and

(c) what are the details of import licences issued for aircraft|belicop!ers so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI); Ca) There is *no* specific provision in the import policy for import of aircraft and helicopters. Each case is examined on merits keeping in view the essentiality, indigenous availability, enduse and other relevant factors.

(b) and (c) An Annexure showing the details of import licences issued from January 1984 to date is laid on the Table of the House. *[See* Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 68.]